THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government has taken several measures to encourage Ayurvedic System of Medicine. These measures are:

(i) Support to undergraduate and postgraduate institutions of ISM&H;

(ii) Extra-mural research;

(iii) Participation in fairs & holding conferences;

(iv) Schemes relating to development of medicinal plants and establishment of Medicinal Plants Board;

(v) Strengthening of State Pharmacies and Laboratories;

(vi) Standardization, quality control and expansion of testing facilities;

(vii) Sensitization and awareness building.

There is no direct competition between the Ayurvedic System of Medicine and Allopathic System of Medicine.

The expansion of modern medicine has been rapid whereas the growth of Ayurvedic medicines was affected due to lack of adequate supply of quality raw materials, inadequate testing facilities, R&D activities and absence of quality assurance. Measures have been taken to address these issues.

The price of Ayurvedic drugs, raw or finished, is not controlled. However, Government have taken steps to augment supply of raw material. The Government have also projected the need for conferring green industry and priority industry status to the ISM&H industry in its policy. These measures are expected to have positive effect on the cost of production and price of Ayurvedic products.

Marketing of Levonorge by Cipla

*267. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:
SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cipla is marketing Levonorge without DCGI's approval;

(b) whether it is also a fact that M/s Contech Devices has filed a complaint against Cipla; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Levonorgistrel is a contraceptive hormone which was used along with Ethylestradiol as oral contraceptive pill. Levonorgistrel is a very old and established drug which also has Pharmacopoeial monograph in Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) and other Pharmacopoeias like BP, USP etc. In September, 2001 the use of Levonorgistrel (0.75 mg strength) has been approved as an emergency contraceptive for manufacture and import in the country. However, since this use is a new indication, the product would fall within the definition of new drug under Rule 122-E of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. Permission for New Drugs should be given by office of DCG(I).

It is understood that the licence for marketing has been granted by State Drug Controller of Maharashtra. M/s Cipla Ltd., has therefore, been directed to obtain permission from the office of the DCG(I) after depositing the required fee and other documents.

Office of DCG(I) has not received any complaint from M/s Contech Devices against M/s Cipla Ltd. about marketing of Levonorge without DCG(I)'s approval.

Flats for slum dwellers in Delhi

*269. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to construct flats for the slum dwellers in Delhi free of cost;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented and the total cost involved;

(d) whether this scheme is already existing in Mumbai; and